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Owners of the wineries that are so much a part of the Livermore Valley landscape are lobbying for construction of local hotels to boost the struggling industry. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Vineyard Owners Express Need for Wine Country Hotels

Lodging May Hold Key to Local Industry's Future

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — As the new year unfolds and the Livermore Valley continues to face a worldwide downturn in the wine market affecting local wineries, region-wide initiatives pushing for the expedited construction of Livermore-area wine-country inns and boutique hotels remain top of mind.

Lodging is perceived by many in the local industry as the linchpin to the long-term health and success of Livermore's wine country.

"We strongly support the development of boutique hotels in Livermore," said Aly Wente, senior vice president, marketing and customer experience for Wente Family Vineyards. "My family has been focused on making Livermore a successful wine-country destination for over five generations, and to enable more wine tourism and amenities. lodging is absolutely essential."

David Kent agreed. He and his wife, Darcie, teamed with Tom and Paige Lemmons to acquire the historic Concannon Vineyard in 2024 with the aim of bringing the property back to a local, family-run wine business.

"Our wine-country experience is not complete without appropriate lodging." David Kent said.

(See WINE, page 9)

Recent Storms, Snowpack Provide Boost for California Water Supply

Continued Precipitation Critical for Tri-Valley and Rest of the State

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A series of storms late last month added needed snow to the Sierra Nevada, but the state snowpack remained below average as of the close of 2025, according to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The State Water Project, owned and operated by DWR, captures snowmelt and supplies the Tri-Valley with up to 90% of its water each year.

DWR conducted its first snow survey of the season at its traditional Phillips Station location along Highway 50 on Dec. 30. Staff measured 24 inches of snow, equivalent to about five inches of water, which is 50% of average for the location at that time of year. Statewide, the snowpack sat at about 71% of average for the date.

Locally, the Zone 7 Water Agency, which manages and supplies water in the Tri-Valley, reported at its Dec. 17 board of directors meeting 3.76 inches of rain for the water year to date in Livermore, representing 161% of the average as of Dec. 1. The Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin sits at about 97% of its operational storage capacity.

The snow survey was not able to include any snow left by the storms that moved through in the beginning of January. The few storms that crossed the mountains earlier in the season met warm temperatures and did not accumulate snow.

"It's great to see so much fresh snow in the Sierra following a relatively dry December," DWR Director Karla Nemeth said.

"More than any other factor, the rain and snow that falls in these critical winter months dictates how much water can be delivered to Californians and farmland statewide," Nemeth said. "We make the most of what Mother Nature delivers with advance planning that enables Forecast Informed Reservoir Op-

(See WATER, page 8)



California Department of Water Resources Hydrometeorologist Angelique Fabbiani-Leon, left, and Engineers Jacob Kollen, center, and Anthony Burdock conduct the first media snow survey of the season at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada on Dec. 30. The measurement showed snow at about 50% of average for the location. (Photo — Xavier Mascareñas/California Department of Water Resources)

New 'L Street Parking Garage' Adds Convenience in Downtown Livermore

Structure Featuring 452 Spaces Produces Upgrade for Businesses, Visitors

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The new Livermore Village Parking Garage, also called the "L Street" parking garage, officially opened on Christmas Eve.

Accessible from L Street via Veterans Way, between Railroad Avenue and First Street, the garage is a four-level structure with 452 spaces, making parking more convenient for those heading downtown.

"More parking in our award-winning downtown has long been a priority of our residents," Mayor John Marchand said. "With the L Street Parking Garage now open, access to our downtown is even easier, giving residents and visitors more time to enjoy the vibrant shops, restaurants and events that define our community."

The site of the garage was approved in January 2018 as part of a larger project that also included the 274-space I Street Parking Garage, which opened in July 2022 and connects to the existing 500-space garage along Railroad Avenue. When the L Street project was originally under consideration, the City Council directed staff to maintain the existing parking supply during all phases of downtown development, and to provide adequate parking for all existing and new development, according to a June 2022 staff report.

The project was reviewed in August 2018 and determined to be consistent with the Livermore General Plan. Later that same year, the City Council approved the Downtown Design Review, and the City moved forward with constructing the I Street Garage while the final parcel of property was purchased for the Livermore Village Garage to ensure that the downtown's overall parking supply would be maintained.

There were two project phases for the Livermore Village Ga-

(See GARAGE, page 5)

Satellite with LLNL Roots to Look Beyond Solar System

Mission Seeks Exoplanet Atmosphere Signs of Life

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The launch window for a small satellite developed in partnership with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) opened this week at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County. Known as Pandora SmallSat, the mission will search the atmospheres of planets outside our solar system for water, a possible contributor to extraterrestrial life.

LLNL engineer and project deputy manager Jordan Karburn told The Independent he was "nervous, excited, anxious" prior to the launch.

"From an engineering and mission-design standpoint, every mission wishes they could have tested more prior to launch," Karburn said. "This is also true for Pandora. Given the resource constraints of a Pioneers class mission, we had to be selective about what ground testing we did versus what would be done during commissioning."

Pandora is funded by NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers program, which aims to encourage lower-cost, higher-risk astrophysics. With missions capped at $20 million, it supports small satellites, balloon payloads and payloads attached to the International Space Station.

"While we underwent a full suite of standard environmental tests — thermal vacuum cycling, random vibration testing, etc. — there's always more testing you wish you could have done to buy down certain performance risks," Karburn said. "However, some of the tests we would have liked to do could cost more than our instruments."

LLNL lent its expertise in optics, fabrication and small satellite payloads to Pandora, serving as the project management and engineering institution. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center leads the project in collaboration with LLNL, NASA's Ames Research Center and other

(See PANDORA, page 6)



A collection of work featuring the Tri-Valley from the expansive archives of photographer Bill Owens is next on display at The Independent Art Gallery, also sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts. The exhibition is free and open to the public from 6-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 2250 First Street in Livermore. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

Photography Exhibition Captures an Era

Legendary Camera Man Bill Owens Presents a Nostalgic Slice of Tri-Valley Life

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Visitors to a new photography exhibit at The Independent Art Gallery are in for a real treat. They will not only just see the iconic black-and-white photographs of the Tri-Valley lining the walls, but also have access to their creator, the legendary Bill Owens, who will be present during public gallery hours from 6-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 28 in the newspaper office building at the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue.

Owens was a photographer for The Independent from 1968 to 1984 and produced the photographic series called "Suburbia" (published in 1972) that captured the campy cultural life of his Livermore neighbors. The intimate work that looked at the rise of the suburban American dream rocketed into a cult classic.

"We are so excited to have the photographs on display in the town they were created — like a full-circle gift to Livermore," Livermore Valley Arts Visual Arts and Education Manager Anne Giancola said. "His photographs draw the viewer in with their look at everyday moments of life in the growing suburb, told in very human terms that we can all relate to."

Pointing to a woman and her daughter in one of the images shot at the time with his Pentax 67, Owens said, "She's very proud. She bought the first Black Barbie for her daughter — the Black Barbie was something."

On the day Owens dropped some exhibition prints off at The Independent office, he arrived lugging a vintage Big Wheel for use as part of his display. One of the most recognized symbols of childhood in the

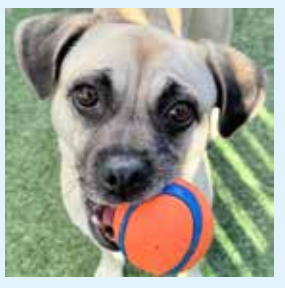
(See OWENS, page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds 11
Editorial.....4
Mailbox 4
Obituaries 9
Sports 10
Tri-Valley Dance Studio, Stanford Team for Learning Study 2
Dublin Councilmember McCorriston Running for Mayor..... 3
Local High School Students Host Speedcubing Competition..... 8
Resurgent Livermore Eyes Big Boys Basketball Season 10
Former NASA Astronaut Speaks to Sizable Pleasanton Group..... 12

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PET OF THE WEEK



BAREFOOT CONTESSA

Here's our recipe for the Perfect Companion, Barefoot Contessa. Start with 18 pounds of outgoing, exuberant joy in one young adult pup who loves people and other dogs. Fold in a generous helping of high energy, a passion for making new friends and a love of scenic hikes. Season with Ina Garten-level warmth and the firm belief that life is better when everything is done with heart. Sound like a winning recipe? Come meet Barefoot Contessa at Valley Humane Society and bring her home today! Call (925) 426-8656, or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Dance Studio, Stanford Study Early Childhood Learning

Effect of Movement on Executive Function, Emotional Regulation and Resilience in Young Children to Be Researched

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Tiffany's Dance Academy, one of the leading dance studios in the Tri-Valley, has teamed up with Stanford University's Movement, Experiences and Learning Lab, led by Dr. Monica Ellwood-Lowe, for an expanded research collaboration.

The partnership builds on Tiffany's Dance Academy's existing collaborations with Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania, and will study how structured dance and movement programs support executive function, emotional regulation and resilience in early childhood.

Throughout the study, Tiffany's Dance Academy and Stanford researchers will analyze data from studio programs and classroom observations to better understand how age-appropriate dance curricula influence children's cognitive, social and emotional growth.

"Historically, we measure children's learning through standardized tasks where children sit still and focus narrowly — pen-and-paper tasks, tasks on an iPad, or those that mirror more what we would expect to see in a school environment," Ellwood-Lowe said.

"But young children are developing all sorts of important skills in a variety of different ways. Dance is an amazing way to study children's skill learning in a more embodied context: how do they learn to follow instructions, inhibit one movement in favor of another?"

The idea for the study came about in early 2025 when Tiffany Henderson, the dance studio's founder, was pursuing a master's degree in positive psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.

There, she grew interested in studying the effects of dance on learning and cognition, culminating in her capstone project: "Mood Changes in Dance Classes for Children and Adolescents: A Longitudinal Study." Her project studied dancers' pre- and post-dance class mood to measure the effects of dance on mental health. Its findings are in peer review at Frontier's Science.



Tiffany's Dance Academy students will be part of a research collaboration with Stanford University to study how structured dance and movement programs support executive function, emotional regulation and resilience in early childhood. (Photo courtesy of Tiffany's Dance Academy)

"During my master's, there was one particular neuroscience class I had with Dr. Allyson Mackey where we were talking about brain development, well-being and executive function, and listening to what helps executive function, specifically in preschoolers," Henderson said. "It occurred to me that it involved all the elements of a dance class."

From there, she had a conversation with Mackey about the possibility of exploring the topic further. Receiving a recommendation to work with someone in the Bay Area, closer to her studios, Henderson was put in touch with Ellwood-Lowe at Stanford.

Although Ellwood-Lowe doesn't come from a background in dance, but rather specializes in early childhood study and language, she found the results of Henderson's mood study interesting. The two agreed that the topic was definitely worth researching in an extended study.

"To me, one of the most interesting parts of learning is how dynamic it is over time. It's not like you learn something once and all of a sudden, you're done — you've mastered it," Ellwood-Lowe said. "It takes time, and some days you regress a little and others you leap forward. I think we'll be able to capture this complexity by measuring week-to-week changes in children's dance learning in fine-grained ways."

Recruitment for the study is planned to start in mid-January, and the two hope the dance sessions will begin in early February. The timeline is loose, but the schedule is for the dancers to meet for a 40-minute class once a week. The class is part of Henderson's Twinkle Star curriculum, which she created in 1998. The program will run for about eight weeks, perhaps a bit longer.

The age group of the target participants is 3-4 years old, the age that Henderson believes falls right before executive function begins to really develop, between ages 4-5, when kids are starting to be able to focus.

Based on the results gathered, certain control elements of the curriculum can be manipulated, for instance extending parts of the session that center on free movement, or require the students to remember specific dance sequences to see which parts of the brain are being affected. The students will also be wearing eye-tracking glasses to track eye movements, brain function and see what their brains are doing during certain parts of class.

Students from all four of Tiffany's Dance Academy locations — Livermore, San Ramon, Danville and Fremont — will participate in the study.

"It's interesting because sometimes dance gets undervalued, and I think that understanding the multi-sensory embodied movement — all of the things that are happening in a human being regardless of age in a dance class, could inform our understanding of executive function, and perhaps influence education policy," Henderson said. "I see that as being hugely important, and lastly, just finding a measurement for executive function. This could potentially be a new measurement."

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Man Shot, Critically Injured in Pleasanton on Christmas Eve

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — A 41-year-old man was shot multiple times in the head and leg in a parking lot at the Civic Square Apartments on Bernal Avenue early Christmas Eve, according to the Pleasanton Police Department.

Police received a call at 1:51 a.m. on Dec. 24, and the man was taken to a local hospital in critical condition.

Investigators said the shooting allegedly stemmed from a dispute over loud music.

As of Jan. 2, no suspects had been identified or arrested. Police had not released the victim's identity, and his condition had not been updated.

The investigation remains ongoing. The Independent reached out for an update but did not receive a response prior to publication.

Pleasanton police encouraged anyone with information related to the shooting to contact detectives at 925-931-5100.

Storage Unit Burglaries

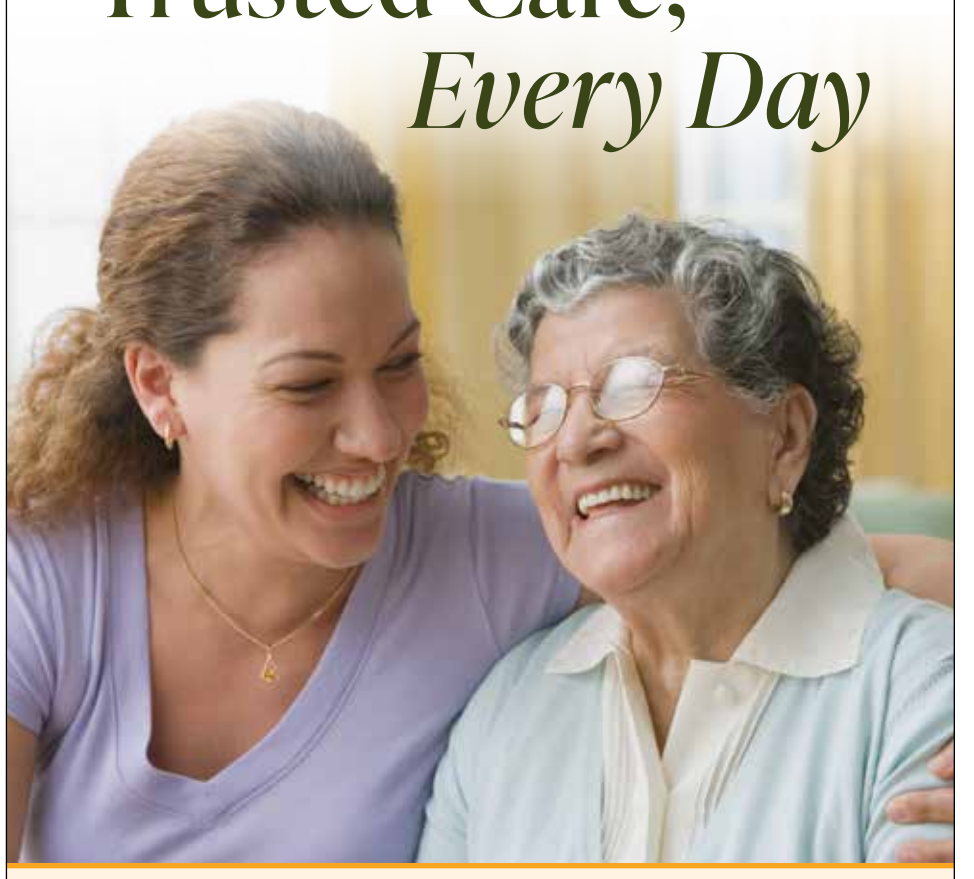
A 44-year-old man was arrested Dec. 23 in connection with a series of storage-unit burglaries linked to cases in Pleasanton, according to a post on the Pleasanton Police Department's Facebook page.

Detectives served a search warrant at a residence in Castro Valley, where they recovered numerous stolen and suspected stolen items, police said.

The suspect was booked into the Alameda County Jail on charges related to the burglaries.

Police advised residents who rent storage units to use high-quality disc or cylinder locks, avoid storing valuables in plain view, and report suspicious activity around storage facilities.

The investigation remains ongoing, police said.

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Art Exhibit Explores Intersection Of Heritage and Modern Society



"Peonies" by Le Thanh Son is among the artworks currently on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater. (Photo courtesy of LVA)

LIVERMORE — An exhibit by Asian artists exploring the intersection of heritage and modern society opens today, Jan. 8, at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The exhibit, "Modern Currents: Contemporary Asian Voices," includes paintings, sculptures and mixed media works by artists from Cambodia, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Russia, and the South Asia region.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, will run through March 8.

There will also be a reception at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, with artists Philip Chan and John To, from the Oriental Art Association in San Francisco, demonstrating their Chinese brush technique.

The gallery, at 2400 First St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Councilmember Announces Run for Dublin Mayor

DUBLIN — Dublin City Councilmember Michael McCorriston has announced that he will challenge first-term Mayor Sherry Hu in next fall's general election.

McCorriston, who has served on the council since 2020, unveiled his candidacy for mayor last week.

Hu, who was elected in 2024, announced Nov. 23 that she will seek a second two-year term this year.

Hu was the first mayor of Dublin elected in a citywide vote. Previous mayors were selected by the council from among its members.

McCorriston served as the city's interim mayor from June-December 2024, following the resignation of former Mayor Melissa Hernandez, who stepped down to join the BART Board of Directors. Dublin also began transitioning from at-large election of council members to district elections in 2024, when McCorriston was elected to the district 1 seat.

The district 2 and 4 seats, along with the mayoral position, will be on the ballot in November.

Council members are elected to four-year terms. The mayor is elected to a two-year term.

McCorriston, who has lived in Dublin for more than 30 years, served as the city's vice mayor in 2023. He said he plans to focus his campaign for mayor on public safety, supporting local businesses, improving the city's transportation network and infrastructure, and addressing housing affordability and service gaps, particularly for senior residents.

"Our diverse city continues to grow along with its need for public safety, services and infrastructure," McCorriston said. "As mayor, I will use my leadership and professional finance experience to ensure police and fire have the resources and tools they need to keep our city safe.

"I will also ensure that the city's financial resources remain robust to preserve city services and will continue to support investment in our city's infrastructure, including maintaining roadways and improving the efficiency of traffic flows."

McCorriston has headed the council's Finance and Investment Committee, recommending actions designed to protect the city's reserves and long-term financial sustainability.



Michael McCorriston

His LinkedIn profile shows more than 30 years in corporate finance, including as assistant treasurer with TD Synnex, a global distribution company, along with a bachelor's degree in finance from San Jose State University and master's degree in business administration from the University of San Diego.

"While [Dublin] has been fortunate over the past decade to realize budget surpluses, we need to clearly rationalize our financial decisions and the related benefits to our residents," McCorriston said. "This would ensure that the city does not face financial challenges that unfortunately have impacted other municipalities. My professional experience will ensure that the city's financial resources are used to strengthen our community today and for future generations."

Another priority, McCorriston said, will be Dublin's growth and development strategy.

"Development efforts must be economically and environmentally sustainable, and of course, well thought out aesthetically," he added. "We can preserve our remaining natural landscapes and emphasize open space for the enjoyment of our community with intelligent development planning."

In the past, McCorriston has also pushed for better coordination between Dublin and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, including changes to how county jail inmates are released into the community.

"Dublin has had a great long-term partnership with the sheriff's office, and open communication and meaningful collaboration with our partner have been critical to ensuring the safety of our residents," McCorriston said.

Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail is in Dublin.

Regarding what he called the housing affordability gap, McCorriston said, "the need for quality workforce housing is at a critical stage in the Bay Area, and I intend to focus on creative solutions that would allow our first responders, educators and young families to live and work in our city.

"Many of us can relate as we care for our aging parents, other family members, or friends. I will strongly advocate for the creation of affordable housing and expanded health-care services for our seniors."



LLNL Employees, Security Workers Donate Millions to Charity Campaigns

LIVERMORE — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) employees donated more than $2.4 million to communities and nonprofit organizations last fall through the annual Helping Others More Effectively (HOME) Campaign.

In addition, Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS), the management collective that oversees LLNL operations, contributed another $1.3 million, to charitable organizations selected by LLNL employees. including a $1 million direct match and $300,000 from a year-round giving campaign.

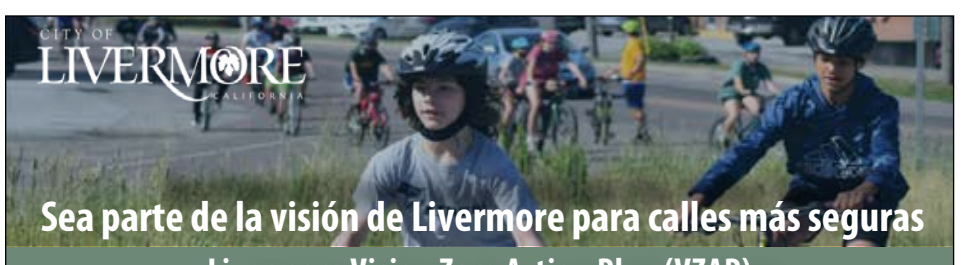
LLNL said 752 employees contributed to the HOME campaign between Oct. 30 and Dec. 2, including 148 new donors. More than 1,000 charities received contributions.

In addition, LLNL said its employees also contributed to several new Giving Pathways initiatives in 2025, including $122,000 in an inaugural Open Match Giving Campaign that raised more than $276,000, including LLNS matching funds, which went to support more than 370 different organizations and causes.

"Our employees continue to inspire with their generosity and commitment to making a difference," said Kim Budil, LLNS president and laboratory director. "The HOME Campaign and Giving Pathways initiatives reflect our shared values and dedication to supporting communities near and far."

Since 1974, the HOME Campaign has raised more than $86 million to benefit thousands of organizations locally and nationwide.







EDITORIAL

What We Can Work for in the New Year

The year 2025 is over. A common refrain we heard went something like this: "Let's hope 2026 is better."

Well, despite a rather dramatic start to the year on the international front, we should focus instead on what we can still do to make 2026 better than 2025. Of course, we are not personally in control of what President Donald Trump does. But there are some things we can control.

Most important is that we are all members of a community. Just being out and involved in our communities is a political act. Many communities have seen their freedoms curtailed by a lawless administration. Latino communities, LGTBQ groups, Haitians, Somalis and other immigrants of color here in the U.S. have all been directly targeted by this administration. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have jumped and detained citizens as well as noncitizens, thanks to a Supreme Court ruling allowing them to racially profile targets.

We can support our neighbors by putting our bodies on the line for them. Hand out whistles to alert them of ICE patrols. Join any demonstrations put on to defend them (and if you're not under threat yourself, move to the front!). Donate money or time to community groups providing aid to people who aren't safe leaving their homes to go to work, school, religious services or to shop for food. And we can certainly join the fight to prevent FCI Dublin from being turned into another ICE deportation prison.

We're also seeing an all-out attack on environmental protections for threatened species of animals and plants, pristine natural areas and public lands, all for the benefit of the oil and gas industries. They're targeting state policies, withholding funding for clean energy projects, firing regulators and turning the remnants of the Environmental Protection Agency into an appendage of Big Oil. California's ability to regulate automobile emissions, which sets the standard for the nation, is under assault.

We can support national groups taking the administration to court, such as the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity. But we can also ensure that our local governments do not roll back protections or break urban growth boundaries that block development outside city limits. Protecting undeveloped rural land with boundaries around our cities is driven by the communities' belief in the importance of addressing climate change locally. The Tri-Valley is unique for its expansive open spaces, and if we lose them, they're gone forever.

Finally, we can help ensure our elected officials in Sacramento and Washington are responsive to our needs, and not getting cold feet about fighting the radical MAGA movement. Some of our leaders are doing well, but some could use a little more courage and a little less compromise of their principles to avoid being targeted by Trump. (We're looking at you, Gov. Newsom: the road to the White House doesn't run through a series of interviews with right-wing provocateurs.) Bravery isn't a lack of fear, but the ability to act despite fear. And bravery is what's called for now. We have the power to influence things closer to home. Contacting our leaders' offices via email or phone will remind them that ultimately, they're working for us.

Former President Barack Obama called politics the "art of the possible." And as long as it's still possible to act, there is still hope we can make the country a better place. We don't have to wait to get started.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:
Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.
The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Somalians Are Human Beings

Jon Elfin, Livermore

This is a response to Mr. Lahommedieau's letter on December 25th.

I agree that Medicaid fraud is a big problem, and anyone taking part in it needs to be penalized accordingly. Full stop.

The GAO reports $233-521 billion in Medi-caid fraud annually. So it's a huge national problem. Not minimizing the 90 Somali bad actors accused of hundreds of millions, possibly billions of dollars accused. (source: WSJ)

But Mr. Lahommedieau goes on to make a variety of generalizations about Somalians.

He claims that "80% + of all Somalians in Minnesota are on subsistence at tax player expense, many cannot speak or read English, and by all accounts do not want to assimilate into our society".

Really? Have you met even one of them? Have you spoken to them? Here are two excerpts from the USA today:

"Minneapolis is proud to be home to the largest Somali community in the country," Mayor Jacob Frey said at a news conference. "They are our neighbors, our friends, and our family — and they are welcome in our city. Nothing Donald Trump does will ever change that."

"The day after President Donald Trump called Somali immigrants in Minnesota 'garbage', more than 100 residents and elected officials gathered at a library to reassure their Somali neighbors they were still welcomed in St. Cloud, a regional hub roughly an hour drive from Minneapolis."

So, 'by all accounts' is false.

Mr. Lahommedieau assumes they are all illegal.

"They are U.S. Citizens, permanent residents, and second-generation residents who never lived in Somalia. This includes police officers, doctors, academics, businesspeople and politicians. (source: USA Today)

Somalians come from a country that has suffered civil war and famine for years. Most of them have come to this country, like pretty much all immigrants from any era, for a better life.

Over my 66 years, I have found that anytime I have gotten to know someone and their family from a different culture, although there may be cultural differences, they are essentially the same as me. They love their family. They want to work and be liked. They want to do good. They want to be part of society. There are always individual exceptions in EVERY group.

The type of rhetoric generalizing otherwise is dehumanizing, inaccurate, dangerous to us, dangerous to them (literally) and to our democracy. It's ugly.

Let's open our arms and hearts.

The Forgotten Desperation

Greg Scott, Livermore

In response to: "EDITORIAL: If We Really Want to Eliminate Homelessness, We in California Will Have to Do It Ourselves," The Independent, 1/1/2026.

California understands little about homelessness, for the most part, collectively or as individuals, and there is little care to achieve this understanding, without which there is no adequate analysis and therefore no real intent to solve the fundamental homeless crisis. California is on no pathway to solve overall homelessness, nor is it capable of crafting a trajectory to do so in its current political, economic, and social frameworks.

A prime example is the fact that in a recent 5 year period the State of California spent $24 billion on 30 homeless programs that hardly put a dent into homelessness and its acceleration, and by audit only 2 of those programs could account for the money they spent. The California State Legislature subsequently passed a bill where State homeless programs would be required to account for the monies they received. Democratic Governor Newsom vetoed this bill. The whole thing reeks of fraud. Welcome to "The Homeless Games."

I in no way care to defend the psychotic, mafioso criminal Republican President Trump and his administration; however, I agree with their opposition to the Housing First program. The problem is the President's and his administration's sadistic and deleterious followup to that position by discontinuing $3.9 billion in funding that would result in 170,000 individuals being put on the street. This only compounds the problem of homelessness. I am glad a federal judge ruled against the Trump administration's elimination of the above funding.

Housing First fails for a number of reasons, despite self-justifying research by the Homeless-Industrial-Complex. For one thing, a great deal of money is spent on relatively few homeless, while the unsheltered homeless can suffer and die. Look at the misguided math of the above cited editorial: "Organizations in the state received approximately $682.7 million in Continuum of Care funds in 2024 ($56.2. million of the total goes to programs in Alameda County)." In that same year there were more than 100,000 unsheltered homeless in California, according to the notoriously underestimating Continuum of Care Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. For easy math, let's round the count down to 100,000 and divide the $682.7 million by that number. California is going to house those 100,000 for $6,827.00 each? What bunk!

America the Despicable

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

With the U.S. military strikes and capture of President Maduro on Jan. 2nd, President Trump and his administration continue their assault on the U.S. Constitution and their belief that laws, as well as checks and balances, no longer apply.

This is not about drugs. Trump has recently pardoned some of the largest drug importers in U.S. history. This is about oil and the "taking back what is ours", per Trump. The U.S. has invaded a sovereign nation and seized control of their oil infrastructure. GOP-controlled Congress has abdicated more power, the power only they have to declare war, to DJT.

America First? In cute slogan only. We are looking and behaving more like 'America the Despicable' and Russia every day.

Removing Maduro was Legal and Appropriate

David Marco, Livermore

Today, the people of Venezuela are rejoicing! There are hundreds of videos of Venezuelans celebrating. So why are some people in America complaining?

First: Maduro was not the "president" — a legitimate head of state. Under international and constitutional norms, legitimacy flows from free and fair elections and continued consent of the governed. Maduro nullified election results; imprisoned political opponents; persecuted civilian protestors; presided over extrajudicial killings; and facilitated narcotics trafficking through state institutions.

At that point, what exists is de facto control by a criminal regime. A narco-state is not a lawful government. It is an organized criminal enterprise.

Second: removing the leader of a transnational criminal regime is not "starting a war." Under long-standing U.S. doctrine, heads of criminal organizations that traffic narcotics; launder money; harbor hostile foreign actors; destabilize regional security; and directly harm U.S. citizens may be treated as national security threats, not protected political authorities.

This falls under Article II Commander-in-Chief authority; counter-narcotics statutes; counter-terror and transnational crime authorities; decades of executive precedent.

Targeted action against a criminal leader is law-enforcement and national security combined, not a declaration of war.

Third: precedent matters, Noriega was removed in 1989. Panama was stabilized; democracy returned; a narco-dictator was held accountable. Sometimes decisive action prevents far more bloodshed than pretending "non-intervention" is morally superior while millions suffer.

Finally: defending Maduro in the name of "anti-imperialism" or "standing with Venezuelans" is wrong. Over 7 million Venezuelans fled starvation, violence, and repression. Today, the people rejoice.

Lastly, Trump's actions were totally legal. Article II of the Constitution gives the president authority to conduct limited military and law-enforcement actions abroad to protect national security and counter transnational criminal threats — without a declaration of war.

Presidents of both parties have exercised this authority, including Obama, Biden and Reagan.

Congress has repeatedly accepted this practice through funding and precedent.

Whether people like the decision is a political debate…but legally speaking, the authority is well-established and nothing new.

So, the real question is "Why are so many people in America suddenly defending a criminal narco-dictator that destroyed his own country and is sending drugs to kill our people?"

(Source: J.E.Parks) References: U.S. Constitution (Article II); War Powers Resolution (1973); U.S. DOJ narcotics indictments of Maduro and "Cartel of the Suns"; U.S. State Department Human Rights Reports on Venezuela; historical precedent: Operation Just Cause (Panama, 1989).

Thank You, David!

Richard Andrews, Livermore

I wish I'd had the wise and erudite posting of D. Marco years ago. Then I could have saved many hours looking at biased and uninformed sources

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

Correction

A story that ran on page 12 in the Jan. 1 edition of The Independent contained an error on the year that nonprofit Sunflower Hill was founded. The organization that develops affordable, supportive housing communities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities was founded in 2013.

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A youthful reveler appears to be having a wonderful time during New Year's Eve festivities Dec. 31 at Pearl Bay Manor in Dublin. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

of news. You know, those who think that there are facts contrary to what neocon MAGA's claim. Places who obviously are not blessed with Truth Social, & FOX's honest observations and strict adherence to facts. AKA: "Whatever Demented Donald or MAGA says is right".

In the future, as I watch the world in chaos, and billionaires getting whatever they want, I will just watch Presidential rants and the regurgitation by Karoline Leavitt, Pam Bondi, Hegseth, or Kash (and carry) Patel, and know that: Inflation is gone, The World is at Peace, Ukraine invaded Russia, We are not engaged in illegal wars and piracy, Donny never hung-out with Jeff, and all is rosy. I know it is all an illusion that my money doesn't go as far. That the Constitution is being ignored. That #47 is a pedophile, rapist, and convicted felon.

All are smoke screens by the "liberal press". Ah, such a revelation! I will go into 2026 aware that our savior, Donny Babe, will make all good or at least tell us so. Thanks David.

What Happened?

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

What happened to our country? We used to be a nation that the rest of the world looked up to, keeping democracies free from the hands of dictators and warmongers. Now WE are the aggressors, taking over sovereign nations like Venezuela — for what? Even as our president admits straight up that we are invading Venezuela for their oil, the reasons they give during press talks and on Fox news are false and laughable. This administration has no interest in looking after its own people. Why aren't we focusing on helping the people here? Since this election, they have been slowly taking away our social safety networks (health care, social security, food banks, health clinics, veteran benefits, school administration, safety regulations, etc. etc.), while continuing to lie about how they want to help the people and how they are saving us from everyone else. Invading other countries? That only helps the weapons' manufacturers (another reason that we 'need' to go to war!) I feel like a sucker for having believed that this man and his cronies (including the majority of Republicans in power) were looking out for the American people (immigrants or otherwise) and not trying to grab everything with their greedy hands while lying to our faces the whole time.

Where is the Congress?

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Where is the Congress? I thought authorization of the war was a responsibility of Congress. To attack and abduct the leader of another country in their territory is an act of war, isn't it? No matter how bad the leader is, starting a war has never done any good and puts our people in danger. This regime lets health insurance subsidies for people expire and starts a war — which is much more expensive than anything else. And for what?? I would like to see the votes in Congress so that we can see who cares about this country and its people. Let's call our U.S. Senators and House of Representatives and ask for action. The phone number is 202-224-3121.

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Glover Concert to Feature Music of Italian Composers

LIVERMORE — Concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform a benefit for the Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Glover, who has performed with orchestras around the world, has been the accompanist for VCC since 1988.

The concert, "Viva I'talia," will feature compositions by three Italians, Alessandro Marcello, Muzio Clementi and Alfredo Casella, and span the Baroque period to the 20th century.

It will also include "Venezia e Napoli" by Hungarian composer Franz Liszt, evoking the essence of Venice and Naples, and Liszt's musical interpretation of Dante's epic poem "Divine Comedy," describing his journey through Hell, Purgatory and Heaven.

Glover will also discuss the history and provide an analysis of each piece.

"Mr. Glover's piano concerts are always a popular event," said VCC board president Sarah Allendorf. "He is an internationally known concert pianist and has a great following around the world. We are so very fortunate to have him as the chorale's accompanist for so many years and we enjoy offering the community an opportunity to experience his great talent."

Tickets for the concert are $30 and are available online at valleyconcertchorale.org.

Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit VCC, which performs three sets of Bay Area concerts every year, with music ranging from classical to contemporary, folk and jazz.

GARAGE

(Continued from front page)



A 452-space parking garage off L Street between Railroad Avenue and First Street in downtown Livermore opened on Christmas Eve. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

rage. The first consisted of reconfiguring the surface parking lot toward the east and installing infrastructure for 16 electrical-vehicle fast chargers. The second phase involved the actual construction, which began in September 2022.

Architecturally, an important design consideration for Komorous-Towey Architects (KTA), who have been working with the city managing the project, was the context because of the parking structure's location in the heart of Livermore's historic downtown.

"The architectural style, the scale of building elements and the facade materials reflect the urban fabric surrounding the structure," according to KTA's website.

KTA strove to design a very pedestrian friendly structure that includes sidewalks on every level, and maximizes light, air and openness to the exterior. A paseo also was incorporated into the design, tying the parking to the surrounding shops and businesses. Landscaping and patio hardscape were further meant to enhance the pedestrian experience.

According to the city's website, the total estimated cost of the new garage came to roughly $40.2 million, which has been financed through Certificates of Participation (COPs) and other capital improvement funds.

The city also projected that the garage would be fully completed by February 2026, with temporary occupancy anticipated by the end of 2025. This was to allow the contractor, Zovich Construction, time to complete the mechanical, electrical and equipment installation, as well as sitework concrete around the garage.

With city officials having already announced the garage's official opening, it is unclear whether these remaining final touches have been completed ahead of schedule or are still ongoing.

"A big thank you to our Engineering team and to Building, Landscaping, Maintenance, Streets, and all the other city staff and community partners who worked hard to bring this project to completion," city staff wrote in a Dec. 24 social-media post.

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BILL OWENS – Photographer for The Independent from 1968–1984, during which time he produced Suburbia (published in 1972) and The Legacy of Suburbia: Photographs 1964–2022 (published in 2022). Bill also worked as a photojournalist for Life Magazine and Newsweek, published multiple photography books, authored and published additional works, and even established one of the nation's first brew pubs. You won't want to miss his photography exhibition.

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Pleasanton to Host Annual Volunteering Festival

PLEASANTON — The annual Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival, highlighting volunteer opportunities for adults, families and teenagers, will be held at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Dozens of non-profit organizations are expected to have tables set up with information on how residents can connect with the community through volunteer service.

"In one day, visitors to the festival can learn the many ways local organizations are working year-round to make our community even better," said W. Ron Sutton, who created the annual event.

Sutton is also founder of the Pleasanton-based Make A Difference, Today and Always nonprofit organization, which is cosponsoring the festival with the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Community of Character Coalition, Accusplit Inc., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Karlsson & Lane Accounting Services.



A local resident checks out a booth at last January's Make a Difference Festival held at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Multiple organizations and attendees assembled for the annual fair that matches people seeking to serve their communities with opportunities to volunteer. The upcoming event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Among the participating organizations are the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), ACCUSPLIT Make a Difference Programs, Alan Hu Foundation, Amador Valley Lions Club, American Association of University Women, American Cancer Society, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Blankets for Kids, Center for Community Dispute Settlement and the Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department.

Also, Friends of Alameda County CASA, Girls Soccer Worldwide, GoGreen Initiative, Goodness Village, Hively, JustServe High School Clubs, Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, Lynnewood United Methodist Church, East Bay Muslim Community Center, National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley, Pleasanton Police Department, Open Heart Kitchen, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Pleasanton Community of Character Coalition, Pleasanton — Livermore Fire Department and Pleasanton North Rotary.

Also, Pleasanton Puppy Raisers, Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Rare Disease Club, Ryan's Cases for Smiles, Spectrum Community Service, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley REACH, Pleasanton North Rotary and Valley Humane Society.

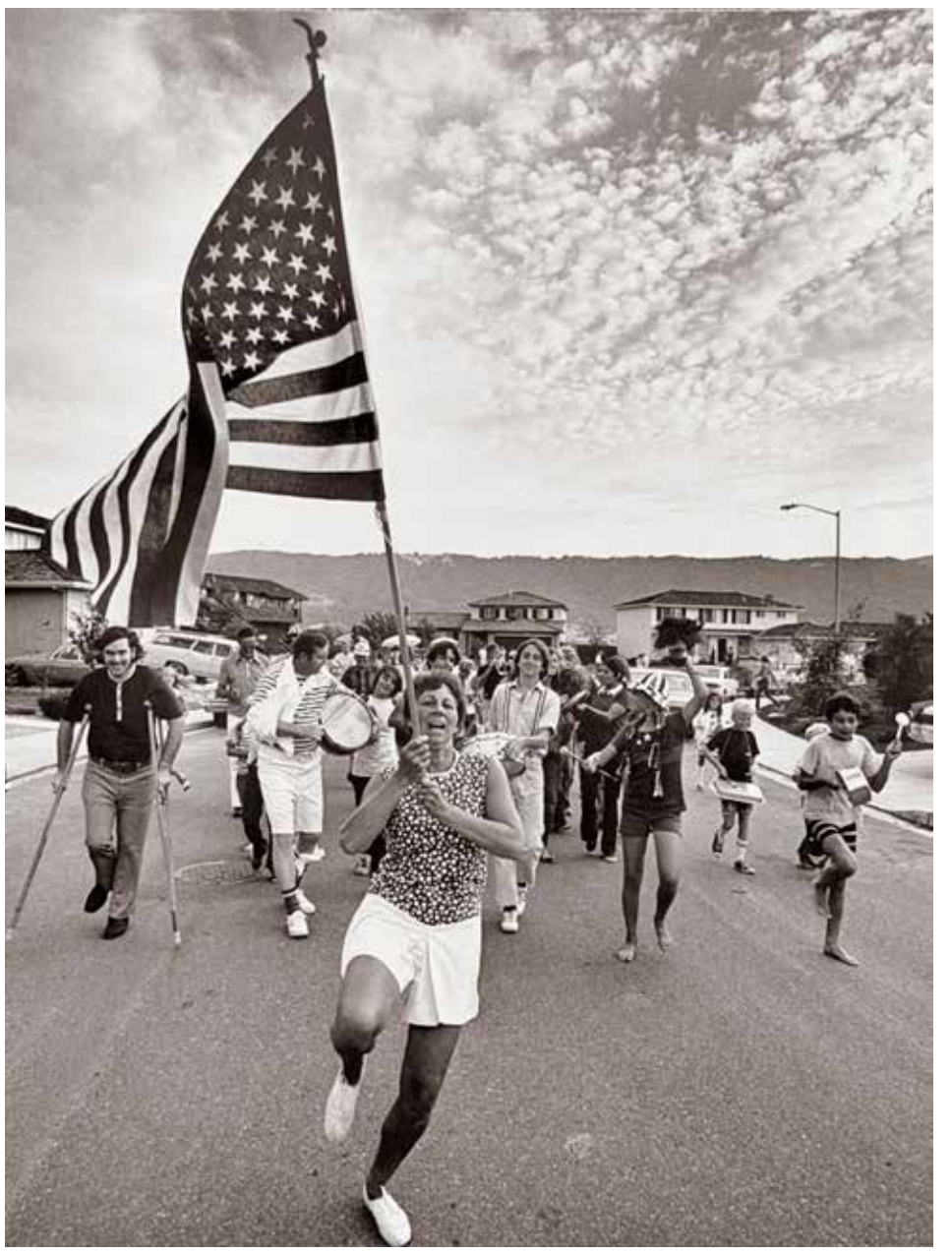
The event is free and open to the public.

OWENS

(Continued from front page)



Filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola's late wife, Eleanor, bought a copy of this Bill Owens print 50 years ago. The caption for which an entire generation has identified reads: "I wanted Christina to learn some responsibility for cleaning her room, but it didn't work." (Photo courtesy of Bill Owens)



Neighbors in a Pleasanton Meadows cul-de-sac show their Bicentennial spirit in 1976. Owens climbed a ladder and shot the aerial cover for his book, "Suburbia," from a rooftop. (Photo courtesy of Bill Owens)

1970s, the throwback tricycle is a perfect match for the era as seen through Owens's lens and memorialized forever in his prints.

Another photo is of a little girl peering at the camera from the edge of her bed inside a very messy room.

"That was done with a Brooks Veriwide 6x9," Owens said of the wide-angle cousin to the Pentax 67. "Because these are small spaces, bedrooms and other stuff."

The only problem with that camera, he said, was that it required one to advance the film twice and then cock the shutter before shooting. "So, you can really screw up a shot," he said. "And that's why I like the cell phone. 'Click.' I'm done."

The iPhone has been his exclusive camera for the past 21 years.

With his keen eye for a story, entertaining anecdotes seem to flow out of the mouth of the famous photographer. In fact, some of his first words had to do with his memoir-writing project, five years in the making.

"It's called 'Chicken Heads,'" he said. "The first chapter is how do you butcher 40 chickens in 2½ hours? 'Whack!' You chop off the chicken heads."

"He's a farm boy," Owens's longtime assistant, Rosemary Comella, interjected.

Owens, born in San Jose in 1938, was raised on a farm in Citrus Heights, near Sacramento, and used to work with his father to raise and butcher their own livestock. "Because my parents were living in fear of the next Great Depression," he said

And one man's fear is another man's fodder.

"I posted the first chapter on Substack today -- 50,000 words are in the can," Owens said. "So, every month I'm going to release more. It's a huge effort. But you've gotta remember, I have several people helping me."

The helpful people include Comella, who had been quietly pacing back and forth trying to map out the number of photos for the exhibit. At one point she politely, but firmly, clapped her hands and said, "Bill, BILL! I need your attention for a minute."

And that was all she got before he torpedoed into another boisterous tale.

But it's his quick mind and unique brand of quirkiness that helped cement him as a seminal influence for an entire generation of American photographers. Owens went on to work in the 1980s as a photojournalist for the likes of Life Magazine and Newsweek, publishing a series of books and starting a family before embarking on a brewing career. He established Buffalo Bill's Brewery, one of the nation's first brew pubs, in Hayward, a move that helped kick off a trend in craft brewing. From 1994 until 2001, he published American Brewer Magazine.

What's next for the 87-year-old Owens? "I'm going to be a Tiktok star," he declared. "My family laughs at me. I'm going to be a social influencer. I have people working for me and helping me do it."

Another local star, trombonist Matt Finders, a Livermore native, will perform with his jazz duo for Owens's opening reception. Finders found success on Broadway and in Hollywood before returning to his Tri-Valley roots after spending 17 years as a member of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." He wrote more than 400 arrangements for the band.

Finders, joined by John R. Burr on piano, will perform on bass for the launch of the exhibition from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10.

"I'm honored to have my Tri-Valley duo playing for a Tri-Valley treasure," Finders said.

PANDORA

(Continued from front page)

institutions. The University of Arizona will handle mission operations.

Pandora's all-aluminum telescope, with a 45-centimeter primary mirror, will focus on the atmospheres of 39 exoplanets — planets outside our solar system. Pandora will look at each for 24 hours at a time, as they filter the light of their host stars.

"Part of Pandora's mission is to differentiate the signals produced from the exoplanet and those that are produced from the star," Karburn said. "To measure another planet's atmosphere, we use a technique called transmission spectroscopy. For that technique to work, we need to have an understanding of the star's behavior — stellar activity (such as solar flares and sunspots) can mask or replicate atmospheric signals. So, in order to have confidence in the data, it's important to disentangle the star signal from the planet signal."

By simultaneously monitoring starlight in both visible and infrared light for long durations as a planet passes in front of its star, scientists hope that Pandora helps other telescopes interpret which signals come from the planets and which from the stars.

One beneficiary of Pandora's work will be the $10 billion James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which was launched as the largest telescope in space in December 2021 by a partnership between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency. A spare infrared sensor from JWST also sits aboard Pandora.

JWST began exoplanet observations in June 2022 and has racked up accomplishments, such as finding water vapor on one planet about 1,150 light-years away and carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide on another planet about 700 light-years away. A light-year represents the distance traveled by light in one year, equivalent to about 5.8 trillion miles.

The data gleaned by Pandora can be applied to JWST's past and future exoplanet observations.

Since the first exoplanet discoveries in the early 1990s, astronomers have cataloged more than 5,000 exoplanets in the Milky Way, according to NASA. These include some rocky planets orbiting within the habitable zones of their stars, meaning they could harbor liquid water.

Observations of exoplanet atmospheres can reveal the presence of water and biosignatures, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide that may be associated with extraterrestrial life.

Although not its main objective, which is to characterize the atmospheric compositions of known exoplanets, Pandora's exoplanet scrutiny joins a growing search for signs of life beyond Earth. Currently en route with expected arrivals in the early 2030s, for example, the Europa Clipper and Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer missions will assess the habitability of some of Jupiter's moons. And scheduled to launch next year, NASA's Dragonfly mission is set to travel to Titan, one of Saturn's moons, to conduct astrobiology research.

Closer to Earth, a paper published in Nature in September identified potential biosignatures in a Martian sample collected by the Perseverance rover.

"The combination of chemical compounds we found in the Bright Angel formation could have been a rich source of energy for microbial metabolisms," Joel Hurowitz, the paper's lead author, said in a NASA news release. "But just because we saw all these compelling chemical signatures in the data didn't mean we had a potential biosignature. We needed to analyze what that data could mean."

Once in orbit, Pandora is scheduled to undergo a one-month commissioning period for the spacecraft and its scientific instruments before beginning observations.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



Miguel Lopez left in the photo, next to his son, Julian Lopez, and his wife, Rosa Lopez.

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported in early June.

To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit

https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones

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Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

Livermore Art Association
P.O. Box 216
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Livermoreartassociation.org

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore-Granad Boosters
2117 Fourth St.
Livermore, CA 94550
livermoregranadaboosters.org

Livermore Heritage Guild
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Lhg.org

Livermore Homeless Refuge
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
livermorehomelessrefuge.org

Livermore Jazz Society
info@livermorejazzsociety.org
503-459-2530
livermorejazzsociety.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
PO Box 1064
Livermore, CA. 94551
(925) 209-1029
livermorek9.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
925-495-1153

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of National Labs
7000 East Avenue, B661/L-794
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

Livermore Lions Club
P.O. Box 975
Livermore, CA 94551
805-405-8743

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation
4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

One Go
2303 Wood Hollow Drive
Livermore CA 94550
925 980-4554
onegoeducationsupport.com
info@onegoeducationsuppor.com

Livermore Valley Education Foundation
849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEF.org

Livermore Valley Opera
P.O. Box 1002
Livermore, CA 94551
925-321-6964
Livermorevalleyopera.com

Livermore Valley
Performing Arts Center
2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Minding Music
PO Box 205
1141 Catalina Dr.
Livermore, California. 94550.
(669) 237-0526
MindingMusic.Org

Monthly Miracles
5211 Demarcus Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568
Monthlymiracles.org

Movements For The Mind
MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main
603 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
902-462-2766
Museumonmain.org

NAMI Tri-Valley
164 N. L St., Suite 104,
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-4480
nami-trivalley.org

Next Step
1010 Murrieta Blvd.
Livermore CA 94550
(925) 425-0414
info@next-step.org
next-step.org
partnersofnextstep.org

Open Heart Kitchen
1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,
Livermore CA 9 4550
(mailing address only)
925-580-1616
OpenHeartKitchen.org

Pacific Chamber Orchestra
PO Box 3134
Livermore, CA 94551
925-324-2775
www.pacificchamberorchestra.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway
P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
510-996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo / Tri Valley PD Support
PNMD.net
trivalley@pnmd.net

Partners for Change Tri-Valley
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
510-773-6356
pfctv.org

Paws In Need
Info@Paws-In-Need.org
925-551-1877
Paws-In-Need.org

Pedrozzi Foundation
1141 Catalina Drive, #170
Livermore, CA 94550
925-456-3700
Pedrozzi.org

Pleasanton Art League
P.O. Box 23
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Pal-art.com

Pleasanton Community Concert Band
P.O. Box 135
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@pleasantonband.org
PleasantonBand.org

Pleasanton MilitaryFamilies
3111 Half Dome Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
PleasantonMilitaryFamilies.org

Quest Science Center
P.O. Box 2129
Livermore, CA 94551
925-292-8099
Quest-Science.org

Reins In Motion
Therapeutic Riding Program
P.O. Box 1001
Livermore, CA 94551
reinsinmotionca.com

Robot Garden Makerspace
700 Terminal Circle
Livermore, CA 94551
RobotGarden.org

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

Runestone Ranch First Responder Wellness
hello@runestoneranch.org
runestoneranch.org

School Of Imagination & Happy Talkers
9801 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Shakespeare's Associates, Inc, dba Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC)
P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
925-443-2273
sparctheatre.org

Shepherds Gate
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-443-4283
ShepherdsGate.org

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co.
Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org
510-827-7033
Shpbeds.org

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Student Education Loan Fund SELF
P.O. Box 2475
Livermore, CA 94550
info@selfloans.org
selfloans.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Michael Church
458 Maple St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-758-0126

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118 / TTFF.org

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org / www.3VCF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Community Television Foundation
4663 Bernal Ave., Suite B
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-462-3030
TV30foundation.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
Trivalleyconservnacy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.Org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

Tri-Valley Seek and Save
P.O. Box 701
Livermore, CA 94551-0701
(925) 895-1041
TriValleySeekandSave.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund
4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-989-1765
info@wiesnerfund.org
wiesnerfund.org

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If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com

Dublin High Students Host Speedcubing Competition

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — What began as a shared hobby in elementary school grew into a student-run speedcubing competition that brought more than 100 competitors to Dublin High School — and produced a national record.

Seniors Suraj R. Kudrikar and Adhi Jeyappragash, co-founders of Dublin High's Rubik's Cube Club, organized the 2025 Dublin California Open, a daylong speedcubing competition held Nov. 22 in the school's Student Union.

"Adhi and I are very passionate about speedcubing," Kudrikar said. "Our journeys with cubing began young, going back to elementary school."

Kudrikar said the pair carried that early interest into their years at Dublin High, where they formed the Rubik's Cube Club and began competing more regularly.

"The cubing community was supportive, kind and absolutely hilarious," he said.

That passion ultimately led the students to organize a competition of their own. After attending several competitions, Kudrikar and Jeyappragash decided to bring a sanctioned event to their campus. With permission from Assistant Principal Kevin Cushing, they moved forward with planning the event, which featured World Cubing Association-approved puzzles.

The competition drew 107 competitors and about 200 total attendees, including parents and guests. The event was hosted along with the World Cubing Association and West Coast Cubing, and featured events such as 3x3, 4x4, 5x5, 3x3 one-handed and Pyraminx. Winners received gift cards sponsored by SpeedCubeShop.

One of the day's more notable moments came during the Pyraminx event, when Hrishikesh Kakati, representing India, completed a solve in 0.98 seconds, marking the first sub-one-second Pyraminx solve in Indian history. The Pyraminx is a pyramid-shaped twisty puzzle with four triangular faces, similar to a Rubik's Cube but typically solved faster due to fewer possible combinations.

"I just achieved one of my greatest dreams," Kakati said. "I finally got one, which I think I purely deserve because I put so much work into this event, and to achieve it here in Dublin just feels very special to me."

Other strong performances followed across multiple events. Varun Mohanraj posted the fastest time in the 4x4x4 Cube event with a best solve of 22.57 seconds, while Lucas Kim recorded the fastest Pyraminx time among U.S. competitors with a best solve of 2.2 seconds.

Speedcubing competitions challenge participants to solve puzzles as quickly and accurately as possible under standardized rules. Competitors bring their own puzzles and complete multiple timed solves per event, with both single times and averages used to measure performance.

Solves are timed using StackMat timers, which require competitors to place both hands on the timer to start and stop the clock. Each solve begins after an inspection period, during which judges issue verbal warnings at eight and 12 seconds. If a competitor does not begin solving within 15 seconds, a time penalty may be applied; at 17 seconds, the solve is recorded as a "did not finish."

The competition was overseen by World Cubing Association delegates Anto Kam, Chris Martin and Mitchell Lane, who monitored results and ensured the event met official competition standards. To ensure fairness, puzzles remained covered until each solve began and were scrambled behind barriers using randomized sequences generated online. Competitors who completed their rounds often volunteered as judges.

For Kudrikar and Jeyappragash, the competition reflected the kind of innovation and organization Dublin High students bring to campus — turning personal interests into well-run events that create opportunities for others.



Students stack solved Rubik's Cubes between rounds during the 2025 Dublin California Open, a student-organized speedcubing competition held at Dublin High School. (Photo courtesy of Dublin Unified School District)

WATER

(Continued from front page)

erations and groundwater recharge."

The state relies on winter storms to store frozen precipitation in the Sierra Nevada for use as it melts later in the year. On average, the period from January through March produces the most snow, and the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30% of California's water needs.

"The dry conditions and warmer temperatures in early December delayed our snow-building season, but the return of storm activity, especially in the last week, helped to build a solid base for this year's snowpack," Angelique Fabbiani-Leon, state hydrometerologist for DWR, said following the survey. "Thankfully, the recent storms that reached the state were cold enough to provide necessary benefits for the snowpack and our water supply. While California is in a better position now, it is still early in the season and our state's water supply for this year will ultimately depend on a continued cadence of storms throughout winter and early spring."

DWR expects to conduct its next snow survey on Feb. 3.

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 8
LIVERMORE -AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
On Jan. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club will host their January meeting: "The Lifecycle of the Bee". Ryan Howard of Sunrise Feed & Supply will discuss everything about the precious bee. A see-thru hive will be present and honey will be for sale for $10. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Monday, Jan. 12
VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE AUDITIONS
The Chorale is seeking experienced singers who enjoy exciting and challenging music, ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz, for its upcoming March and May concerts and a June performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City. The 15-minute audition appointment will include some basic sight-reading and a rhythmic exercise. To determine vocal range, auditioners should come prepared to sing a short song in any language. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Call 925-866-4003 to schedule an audition.

Monday, Jan. 12
LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Come hear Lisa Vogele speak on "Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry Meets Adventure." Discover how you can personally trace your ancestors' paths; visiting battlefields, exploring ancestral villages, or connecting with distant relatives. In-person at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, or via ZOOM (see flyer on website to register at www.l-ags.org, click on 'Speakers & Topics' on upper left). On Jan. 12 at 7:00 p.m. No charge; visitors welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 15
LUNAR NEW YEAR CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP
Welcome the Year of the Horse with a special calligraphy workshop led by Jojo Liu. This class introduces the fundamentals of Chinese calligraphy, including brush techniques, stroke order, and the writing of auspicious New Year phrases. For ages 15 and up. No registration; however, space is limited to the first 25 participants. On Jan. 15 from 6-7 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza.

Saturday, Jan. 17
LIVERMORE LIONS CLUB CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER
Doors open 5p.m. at Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St. Dinner includes all you can eat crab with pasta, salad, bread, dessert, water. Live music by Element 116, raffles, 50/50, and silent auction. No host bar. No outside beverages. Tickets $75 per person or $420 table for six. Call Ann at 805-405-8742 for tickets.

Saturday, Jan. 17
SMART RETIREMENT MEETING
In this course, you'll learn how to set your ideal retirement age and calculate exactly what's required to fund your dream lifestyle. Learn strategies and tools for early retirement with speaker Amber Ma. At the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Jan. 17 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18
HOUSE CONCERT: SIXPENNY
The Livermore Jazz Society will host a house concert featuring Sixpenny, traditional Celtic music played on acoustic instruments. Sixpenny gives propulsive energy to the rhythmic beat of jigs, the dance music of reels, and rousing songs and ballads. On Jan. 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Details at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/events or email info@livermorejazzsociety.org. If seats are available, you will receive a written invitation with the concert address. Seating is limited, so advance notice is highly recommended. Livestream available. Suggested donation: $20 per person.

Thursday, Jan 22 and 29
SQUARE DANCING LESSONS
Cactus Corners, a local nonprofit, is offering free introductory square-dancing classes on Jan. 22 and 29 to new dancers. Lessons will continue through the rest of the year. Anyone age 8 and up is invited. At Sunrise Mobile Home Park, 856 Sundial Circle, Livermore, in the Community Room. For more information and to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-518-7624.

Saturday, Jan. 24
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD
Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Jan. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, Jan. 24
PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER PERFORMS "VIVA l'ITALIA"
International concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform the music of Italy in "Viva l'Italia," a benefit for the Valley Concert Chorale. Mr. Glover's programs are always entertaining and educational as he shares the history and analysis of each piece he performs. On Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are $30 and may be purchased at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or at 925-866-4003.

Sunday, Jan.25
HISTORIC RANCH OPEN HOUSE
Visit historic Hagemann Ranch at your own pace on Jan. 25 from 1-5 p.m. Wander this 5-acre, historic site, see the original buildings and the gardens, and visit the animals. Docents will be on hand to answer questions and offer tours. Located at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

Monday, Jan. 26
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST & AWARDS
Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) is hosting the 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast & Awards in the Tri-Valley, celebrating community service with the theme "The Fierce Urgency of Now," focusing on courageous, compassionate action and philanthropic service and honoring local leaders who embody Dr. King's spirit. Tickets are on sale and sponsorship packages are available at 3vcf.org/mlk-fellowship-awards. At the Palm Event Center in the Vineyards, Pleasanton, on Jan. 26 from 8:00 — 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8
2026 LIONS SPEECH CONTEST FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
The Livermore Lions Club is holding its annual Student Speaker Contest on Feb. 8 at the Civic Center Library in Livermore. The contest provides scholarships for high school students after graduation. Each of up to six students presents a 5- to 10-minute speech on the topic, "Youth Mental Health: Overcoming Barriers to Well-Being." The contest is open to high school students in and around Livermore. For more information and to enter the contest, call Ann at 805-405-8742.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES
FOOD RELIEF SERVICES
Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at:
Children's Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363;
St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.;
Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, 1 to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore;
Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry , 150 N. "L" Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.;
Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
In AA, we don't tell anyone to do anything. We talk about our own drinking, the trouble we got into, and how we stopped. To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleyservicecenteraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET
Open Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Main Street and West Angela Street. Seniors 60 and over are welcome for specialized shopping from 9 to 10 a.m.

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

Email non-profit events to calendar@independentnews.com for newspaper calendar and visit our website www.independentnews.com to promote all events online.

WINE

(Continued from front page)

He added that a vibrant boutique hotel strategically located downtown would greatly benefit wine country and other area businesses. The concept for a 130-room boutique hotel next to the Bankhead Theater and a 30-room wine-country inn on Holmes Street were approved in 2018 and 2020 respectively by the Livermore City Council but went through a period of public debate and multiple rounds of voting, which temporarily stalled the issue at the time.

"Other wine countries offer this experience; we don't," David Kent said. "And our local family-owned wineries and restaurantsand even the Bankhead (Theater)are suffering as a result."

Winery leaders all but expressed their desperation at an Oct. 27 Livermore City Council meeting, presenting their cases during public comment for expediting the South Livermore Valley Sewer Extension Project. In November 2022, voters approved Measure P to permit the extension of sewer services to properties along Buena Vista Avenue from East Avenue to Tesla Road, down Tesla Road, and part of Greenville Road.

Tough Times

"Times are tough in the wine industry," said Karl Wente, a fifth-generation winemaker at Wente Family Vineyards. "Anything to expedite the years, the weeks, the months. Time matters. Time is of the essence for our wine country."

The lack of sewer services in the unincorporated areas south of Livermore has long created a barrier to developing boutique hotels and destination restaurants.

Winemaker Mark Clarin of McGrail Vineyards also provided a comment at the Oct. 27 city council meeting. "This would really help us stay alive," he said, referring to the approved sewer service.

In addition to helping secure wine-country lodging and dining establishments, the sewer extension would also address other serious issues. The growth of many Livermore wineries has been limited due to a reliance on aging septic systems to manage wastewater from the wine-making process. Gaining access to a municipal system designed to handle industrial volumes would mean a significant lowering of costs for mid-to-large scale producers.

Further, city sewer access would make it easier to build and expand production facilities and thus attract new mid-size wineries with an aim of reaching a long-standing 5,000-acre planting goal of cultivated vines in the area, as set by The Tri-Valley Conservancy and local planners.

Lastly, removing large volumes of agricultural wastewater from the soil and moving it into a closed sewer system would ensure long-term soil health for the region.

The Livermore City Council on Oct. 28 approved a cooperation agreement with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, wherein the county would reimburse the city with up to $700,000 for project management and engineering services for the sewer extension project.

Residents Curious

Visible signs of the potentially tough times in the wine industry have had many residents wondering what's really going on.

Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers, recently said that despite some significant wineries closing in recent years due to industry hardships and lack of succession plans, several notable new wineries, such as Pruett Estate Winery and Sakura Winery, have opened.

Wente has removed several vineyards in and around the Dunsmuir neighborhood that sparked some recent public questions.

"As vineyards age past their life cycle, we remove the vines to allow the soil to naturally heal," Aly Wente responded. "After the soil health has been restored, we will assess all fallow land for future vineyard replanting. We understand that removing vineyards may impact visual elements for our neighbors, but vineyard removal is part of the natural farming cycle in winegrowing."

And the key to replanting, at least at Concannon, according to Tom Lemmons, will be to plant the right grapes for where the market is going.

Last year, the Livermore Valley Wine Community declared Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc as the region's signature varietals in an effort to establish the region's identity in the wine industry.

Concannon is getting fully behind the initiative and is in the process of replanting the entire estate with the two varieties.

"In a sense, Livermore is going back to the future," David Kent said. "Cab Franc and Sauvignon Blanc were prominent amongst the early Livermore grape plantings of the 1880s, and we see the valley gravitating back to our authentic roots."

Wine Country Visitors Center

The Kent and Lemmons families have some major plans in the works for mid-2026. They are re-purposing the 65,000-square-foot former bottling plant west of Concannon into a wine-country destination.

"We jumped on the chance to convert that massive, empty plant into the long-overdue wine-country visitor center Livermore desperately needs," Tom Lemmons said.

The working name for the center at 4596 Tesla Road is "Cab Franc City."

"It can be Livermore's answer to the Ferry Building in San Francisco," David Kent said. "Craft wine, beer and spirit producers under the same roof as electric-bike rentals, gourmet foods, art galleries, a destination restaurant and a transportation hub that links our transit centers to Livermore's famous wine trolleys."

All the production space will be preserved as maker space for small wineries and other artisans, acting as an accelerator that allows promising micro wineries to scale up, learn and grow with like-minded producers. There is a future plan for the two-story Victorian in the northeast portion of Concannon's building envelope to be the centerpiece of a future resort and spa.

"Right now, our focus is on re-planting vineyards, restoring grape-processing capacity to the winery, launching Cab Franc City and being a good neighbor," Tom Lemmons said.

"Successful wine countries offer a variety of lodging options to satisfy guest preferences," David Kent added. "Livermore has modern business hotels along the highway and one great bed and breakfast in the Purple Orchid Inn, which is a hidden gem. We are missing a chic, bustling urban boutique hotel that will show off our beautiful downtown. We are missing an intimate, small countryside hotel that can host family gatherings and be the base camp for wine-country adventures. And we are missing an upscale vineyard-based resort hotel and spa with bungalows for couples to unwind, play golf in the morning, visit wineries in the afternoon, relax in the evening and enjoy a world-class culinary experience at night."

In closing, Aly Wente said, "Boutique lodging isn't just a win for the wine community — it's a catalyst for the entire Livermore economy. By increasing overnight visitation, we extend the time and money guests spend in the region, which directly supports jobs and strengthens small businesses. Thoughtfully planned lodging helps ensure that Livermore continues to grow and positions the region for long-term success as both a premier wine destination and a thriving hometown."

OBITUARIES

Patricia Elizabeth Bosma

June 4, 1938 — Dec. 20, 2025



Patricia Elizabeth (Uspel) Bosma of Pleasanton, California, died peacefully on Dec. 20, 2025, at the age of 87.

Patricia was born on June 4, 1938, to Vincent and Marilyn (Zvinak) Uspel in Chicago, Illinois, where she spent the first six years of her life and greeted her brother Richard in March 1944. The family then moved to Rhinelander, Wisconsin, where she attended first a one-room country schoolhouse and then Rhinelander High School.

Patricia graduated with a BA in literature and vocal music from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. There she met a handsome tenor, Douglas Bosma, who would become the love of her life, and auditioned for and won a scholarship at the Philadelphia Academy of Vocal Arts.

In Philadelphia she developed her beautiful soprano voice and earned an advanced degree in vocal music, singing opera and classical music by day and performing in nightclubs to supplement her scholarship funds.

After Patricia's graduation from the Academy of Vocal Arts, she and Douglas were married in 1964 and worked as teachers in Sheboygan, Wisconsin until Peter was born in 1965. They moved briefly to St. Peter, Minnesota where Elizabeth was born, then to Le Sueur, Minnesota where he worked for Green Giant and where Mary, Timothy, and Sarah were born. In 1976 they moved to Chaska, Minnesota before Douglas took a job with Clorox and the family relocated to Pleasanton, California in 1978.

Patricia shared her love of music and her vocal talent throughout her life, whether with church choirs, civic organizations, voice students, or her own singing telegram company, Totally Tasteless Telegramz. She performed everything from opera to Broadway to Dolly Parton with artistry, panache, and the occasional rubber chicken, and brought joy to friends, family, and the community with her voice.

Music was only one of Patricia's talents. She loved to draw and would frequently embellish the envelopes of the many, many letters she sent her family and beloved friends with her art. She applied her skills with the sewing machine to create beautiful suits and dresses as well as an entire zoo of stuffed animals for her children and grandchildren. An avid gardener, Patricia turned the plain front and back yards of her Pleasanton home into an oasis of roses, jasmine, lavender, geraniums, nasturtiums, succulents, and the occasional pumpkin. She loved to share her flowers with neighbors and would bring the products of her hyperactive apple tree — apple pies and apple butter — to anyone who asked.

Patricia never stopped learning or challenging herself. As her children left the nest, she earned a masters degree in psychology and family counseling from Cal State Hayward and worked as a counselor for the Tri-Valley Haven for Women in Livermore, then for Family Services of the East Bay and Westudillo Counseling Service in San Leandro. She joined her local Toastmasters to improve her public speaking skills and quickly became an integral part of the group.

Patricia was an anchor in the local Catholic community, including Cursillo, religious education, choir and music programs, prayer circles, prison ministry, bringing the Eucharist to shut-ins, and leading a grief support group. When Douglas was permanently disabled following an automobile accident in 2005, she became his caretaker and fierce advocate for the rest of his life.

Patricia is survived by her children, Peter Bosma, Elizabeth Hardage (Chris), Mary Bosma, Timothy Bosma (Jennifer), and Sarah Bosma (Jared Shucha); her grandchildren, Colin, Amanda, Hannah, Samantha, Malcolm, and Hunter; and her brother Richard. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vincent and Marilyn Uspel, and her husband of 58 years, Douglas Bosma.

A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton, California, at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please donate to an organization that mirrors Patricia's love of community, music, and those with the least among us.

Floyd Leonard Richards, Jr

Jan 22, 1938 — Dec 25, 2025



Floyd L. "Rich" Richards, Jr., 87, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully at home on December 25, 2025, surrounded by his family. Born on January 22, 1938, in Seattle, Washington, Rich lived a life marked by service, generosity, and devotion to family and community.

A proud veteran, Rich retired as a Senior Chief after 23 years of service in the U.S. Navy before embarking on a successful second career as a scheduler and planner in ship repair. Earlier in life, he was a proud member of one of the smallest cities ever to win the Washington State Basketball Championship — a story he loved to share.

Rich was known for his kindness, humor, and willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need. An avid fisherman and hunter, he also enjoyed computers, card games, cribbage, and cheering for his favorite NBA teams. He was a lifelong member of the Livermore Elks, Eagles, Moose, and Fleet Reserve, where he held numerous positions over the years.

Rich is survived by his children Todd (Toni), Scott, Jeff (Linda), and Sherry (Bob); 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 8 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 41 years, Audrey.

A viewing, rosary, and service will be held on January 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., followed by a reception at his daughter and son-in-law's home in Livermore, California.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

James Christian Johnstone

Sept. 28, 1949 — Sept. 1, 2025

Join us as we celebrate the life of James, a devoted car enthusiast, inventor, product designer, volunteer and devoted family man. He brought joy and laughter to all.

We will gather on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, noon-4:00 p.m. at Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Please bring your stories and memories to share.

Patricia "Pat" Jean O'Neill Whelan

Nov. 10, 1932 — Nov. 24, 2025

Born in San Francisco to Timothy O'Neill and Dorothy O'Neill (nee Wende) on Nov. 10, 1932, Pat lived with her aunt and uncle, Helen and Joe Sweeney, and their daughter, Peggy, after her mother passed in 1941.

Pat's aunts, Helen Sweeney and Peggy O'Neill, owned the O'Neill Sisters School of Dance in San Francisco. Pat enjoyed years of dance lessons, shows, and participating in the May Day parades as a student of the studio.

Pat valued education and was a student and graduate of École Notre Dame Des Victoires (NDV), Presentation High School, City College of San Francisco, and University of California, Berkeley (BA history, 1954).

After graduation, Pat worked at I. Magnin department store in San Francisco. Pat met Richard (Dick) Whelan in San Francisco, and they were married from 1956 to 1978. Together they raised their daughter, Chris, in Walnut Creek, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Merrillville, Indiana; and Summit, New Jersey.

Pat was a lifelong voracious reader and supported public and school libraries throughout her life. Her childhood favorites included The Wizard of Oz and the Mary Poppins books. Her family rationed her reading to 100 pages a day, believing too much reading would harm her eyesight. Not to be deterred, when she reached that limit, she reread the same 100 pages.

In 1978, Pat moved to Long Beach, California, and began a career as a bookseller, where she owned an independent bookstore, The Book Emporium, for almost



20 years. She received a commendation from the county of Los Angeles for the support her store provided to local libraries and schools. After her store closed, Pat worked at a children's bookstore, Once Upon a Story, until 2005, and shared her love of reading by gifting carefully selected books to her family and friends.

In addition to her love for literature, Pat filled her days with many hobbies and interests. During the years she lived in Southern California, she sailed frequently. Pat also loved spending time in her garden and playing Scrabble. She rarely missed the nightly national news, an episode of Jeopardy, or weekly Mass. Pat moved to Livermore in 2006 to be closer to her siblings and cousins. Pat had grown up with her cousin, Peggy Volponi (nee Sweeney), and the two considered each other as sisters. Once back in the Bay Area, Pat was able to spend time she cherished with Peggy and her husband, Jack, in their final years. She also reunited with her eighth-grade classmates from NDV and met them for annual lunches in San Francisco. Pat had many friends in Livermore and always looked forward to her Mahjong, Bunco, knitting, and church groups. Pat was an active volunteer at Stanford Hospital in Pleasanton for 12 years until 2020.

Pat is survived by her daughter, Chris (Jeffrey), grandsons Jackson (Emily) and Jefferson (Molly), great-granddaughter Lily, brothers Tim, Kevin (Myrle), and Kirk (Connie), and sister Bonnie. Her O'Neill family nieces and nephews are Heather (Grant), Marissa, Shane (Megan), Adam (Keris), Kimberly (Dan), Brianna, and Tim (Tatiana), and great-nieces and nephews Leila, Camden, Sophia, Gabrielle, AJ, Addison, and Amelia. Pat's Volponi cousins Joe (Tracy), Jim (Maureen), John, Tom (Cathy), Jerry (Sherry), and Dan (deceased) were close family members along with the cousin's children, Paul, Josh (Flavia), Jake (Emily), Jordan, Nick, Oliva, and Jack who affectionately called their cousin "Aunt Pat". Pat's Wende/Drescher first cousins are Wende (Hal) and Carolyn, and their children are Mark, Scott, Casey, Kyle, and Darin.

A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore, followed by a reception in the church hall. Burial will be private at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Friends of Livermore Public Library (1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA 94550) or to St. Charles Borromeo Church (1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, CA 94550).

Coach Tripp Leads Livermore Boys Basketball Resurgence During Second Stint with Cowboys

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — The numbers, the landmarks, the ebb and flow of time all point to something special this season, Livermore High School boys basketball coach Mike Tripp said.

This is his second season of a second stint at Livermore and his 40th year in coaching. It's also his 40th year of marriage to wife Yvonne, who has attended all but "a few" of the more than 1,000 varsity games he's ever coached, split between the Cowboys and Washington-Fremont.

Livermore just won its first league football championships in 32 years, and last season Tripp led the Cowboys to their first North Coast Section playoff appearance in 10 years and their first NCS playoff win — 71-61 in Division III play over visiting San Marin-Novato — in at least 30 years.

"A lot is trending positively at the school," Tripp said.

The boldest indication that the Cowboys are on the brink of a landmark season — which would include breaking a 12-year winless East Bay Athletic League streak — is that they're just so darned talented.

And selfless.

"They share the ball, they can put the ball in the basket and they just care about each other," Tripp said after the Cowboys improved to 13-2 with a thoroughly lopsided and impressive 65-40 win over Sacred Heart Cathedral-San Francisco in the first Bay Area Challenge Jan. 3 at Bellarmine Prep-San Jose. "They know we're not doormats anymore."

Said star 6-foot-5 sophomore Amare Chandler, who had game-high totals of 22 points and 16 rebounds: "We all eat on this team. We all feed each other. We're one big family."

Chandler's 22 points were right in keeping with his season average, and the one-sided win over the then 7-2 Irish was the ninth of 20 points or more for the Cowboys. Livermore also received a combined 19 points from 6-3 point guard C.T. Harper and 6-7 center Dylan Wherry, who averages 17 points and 11 rebounds, and was named



Senior Caden Kinney goes in for a layup during a 69-46 Livermore victory over visiting Washington on Dec. 19. (Photo — Bob Bronzan/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

inside or outside. He plays well above the rim. Best of all, he's just a great kid with good grades and is just fun to be around."

In his 40 years of coaching, Tripp said "He's the best and most talented player I've ever had."

That's saying something because at Washington, Tripp coached Mikh McKinney, a 6-foot point guard and two-time first-team All-Big Sky Conference player at Sacramento State, who is still playing professionally overseas.

"He scored 52 points once in a game in Mexico," Tripp said of McKinney. "He was a heck of a player for me and certainly is now."

Tripp has had lots of seasons and players to reflect on, starting with his first stint at Livermore, from 1991 to 2003. He and Yvonne lived in Livermore in those years, but Tripp's full-time job was with the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD).

The commute was tough, so when the Washington job opened, it made sense for Tripp to coach where he worked. He took over for successful coach Guin Boggs in 2004 and led the Huskies until he retired from the FUSD in 2023.

The stars seemed to align because that same year, Livermore coach James Petersdorf, also the school's athletic director, stepped aside. A former player for Tripp in the 1990s, Petersdorf called his old coach to see if he'd be interested in returning to Livermore.

"Once a Cowboy, always a Cowboy," Tripp said. "It's been wonderful to come full circle. Everyone has been so supportive. The kids are super motivated and playing for all the right reasons. I've loved every minute of it."

Last season's 15-14 campaign — the first winning season since Tripp coached in the 1990s — was magical in many regards. But a 0-9 EBAL record stretched the league losing streak to an almost incomprehensible 121 games.

The single round-robin schedule didn't give the Cowboys a whole lot of chances to break the streak, but then again, "we're playing maybe the toughest league in all of Northern California," Tripp said.

Though the EBAL seems to be a little down at the top in 2026, there is little chance for error, starting with the Friday, Jan. 9 opener against visiting Amador Valley-Pleasanton. The Dons improved to 10-5 Saturday with a 57-54 win over St. Mary's-Berkeley at the Bay Area Challenge.

With Livermore beginning the charge, the EBAL was a combined 6-2 in Saturday's inaugural event against other Bay Area powerhouses.

"We were happy to represent," Tripp said.

Amador Valley is expected to add a pair of top-tier transfers in Cameron Anderson (6-8) and Arman Mahavni (6-6) for the matchup with Livermore, though as of last week, the two had not been cleared by NCS.

Whether they play or not, the challenge will be great, as it will be the rest of the league season.

"We're just focusing on us," Chandler said. "And we're not really worried about breaking the streak. People are excited about our program, and they're packing the gym to support us. Hopefully we'll give them plenty to cheer about."



Area Wrestlers Making Marks

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — We would urge local wrestling fans to remember this name, but it is pretty hard to forget on its own.

Dublin High School freshman Lytning Hazen is No. 1 in the latest (Jan. 3) North Coast Section 106-pound rankings, according to Calwrestling.com. He is one of two local wrestlers at the top of the 14 weight classes.

First-place finishes at the Lou Bronzan and James Riddle Memorial tournaments are big reasons why Hazen is at the top of the list.

Livermore freshman Elham Hashimi is ranked fifth in the same weight class, while Amador Valley sophomore Luke Staley and Granada freshman Juelz-King Brewick are honorable mentions, according to the rating system

Granada senior Tyson Tran, buoyed by a second-place finish in the 165-pound class at the Turlock Bulldog Classic, is ranked No. 1 in NCS at 157 pounds.

Foothill junior Tunoa Bodily, helped by a second-place finish at the Bronzan, is ranked No. 9 in the 157s. Dublin sophomore Landry Ngambia and Amador Valley seniors Brody Allen and Tai Falcon are honorable mentions in the 157 class.

Other Tri-Valley male wrestlers ranked per weight classes in NCS are:

113 — HM Adam Rezeik (Livermore).

120 — No. 2 Yousef Amin (Dublin); HM Grant Langstaff (Granada).

126 — HM Tyler Alfinda (Amador Valley).

132 — No. 4 Charlie Herrington (Granada); No. 6 Nathan Marek (Amador Valley); HMs Eric Elola (Livermore), Drake Simonson (Foothill).

138 — No. 4 Jack Bronte (Granada); No. 5 Jon Duncan (Foothill); HM Jace Whatley (Livermore).

144 — No. 3 Rueben Castro (Amador Valley); No. 5 Nick Baxter (Granada); No. 8 Kenneth Bell (Foothill).

150 — No. 3 Troy Nichols (Livermore); HMs Jayden Butikofer (Livermore), Evan Johnson (Amador Valley).

165 — No. 8 TJ Chandler (Amador Valley); No. 9 Christian Taovil (Granada).

177 — No. 4 Luca Moore (Amador Valley); No. 9 Noah Blake (Granada); HM Anthony Doroshenko (Amador Valley).

190 — No. 6 Noah Awad (Amador Valley); HM Santino Sevier (Amador Valley).

215 — No. 5 Adrian Rodriguez (Livermore); No. 6 Jayden Wood (Amador Valley); HMs Thunder Hazen (Dublin), Jack Schwabenland (Granada).

285 — No. 4 Asher Nischke (Livermore); No. 12 Luke Debenning (Granada).

EBAL Basketball Begins

The East Bay Athletic League basketball season starts for both boys and girls on Friday, Jan. 9.

Both leagues play a single round-robin schedule, meaning each team will play nine games.

In girls play, Dublin (9-4 through Jan. 3) hosts California-San Ramon (9-5), Foothill (6-7) plays at Dougherty Valley-San Ramon (9-2), Livermore (7-7) plays at Amador Valley (6-7), and Granada (6-9) hosts Monte Vista-Danville (7-5).

All are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tipoffs except California-Dublin, which starts at 7 p.m.

According to MaxPreps.com computer rankings, the two EBAL teams to beat in the league are also the top two-ranked teams in NCS: No. 1 San Ramon Valley-Danville (11-2) and No. 2 Carondelet-Concord (12-2).

The rest of EBAL teams in NCS order: No. 8 Dublin, No. 10 Dougherty Valley, No. 18 California, No. 39 Monte Vista, No. 59 Amador Valley, No. 62 Foothill, No. 63 Granada and No. 82 Livermore.

Friday's EBAL boys openers are Dublin (12-4) at California (9-7), Amador Valley (10-5) at Livermore (13-2), Dougherty Valley (11-5) at Foothill (10-3), and Granada (12-3) at Monte Vista (9-6).

MaxPreps has Granada as the top EBAL team, ranked No. 6 in NCS, followed by No. 7 De La Salle-Concord (11-3), No. 9 Amador Valley, No. 11 Dougherty Valley, No. 12 Livermore, No. 16 Dublin, No. 17 Monte Vista, No. 22 California, No. 27 Foothill and No. 43 San Ramon Valley.

Dublin Soars

Dublin boys basketball coach Tom Costello has been leading the Gaels for more than two decades but he called a 63-61 victory over Valley Christian-San Jose on Jan. 3 "one of the best wins I've had in a long, long time. I'm just flying."

That's largely because the Gaels were down five players who were out with the flu, and many of those who played were not nearly 100%. Yet, playing a talented 8-1 squad in the first Bay Area Challenge at Bellarmine Prep-San Jose, Dublin overcame an early deficit behind 26 points from Nick Lee and 25 from Izaiyah Romero to pull out the gritty win.

In another grind-it-out win, Granada received 29 points, 17 rebounds and four assists from Brandon Hahn to pull out a 64-59 win over St. Francis-Mountain View. The Matadors finished the game on a 14-1 run, not giving up a bucket in the final five minutes of play. Freshman point guard Quaran Johnson scored all of his seven points down the stretch.

"Other leagues don't know what EBAL defense is all about," the 6-foot-6 Hahn said. "Coaches always have us prepared."

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human-interest story? Email Mitch Stephens at mitch@scorebooklive.com

All-Tournament at West Park-Roseville and American-Fremont events in December.

Other double-digit scorers throughout the preseason have been 6-4 wing Erik Schock ("very smart, do-it-all, blue-collar contributor," Tripp said), 6-5 forward Caden Kinney ("a load to handle), and 5-11 senior shooting guard Zach Lininger ("tougher than tough, good ballhandler, shooter and defender.")

Harper, an All-Bay Area football wide receiver, is a third-year starter and gives the Cowboys loads of athleticism. Clearly though, the leader in that department is Chandler, who already is considered a top college prospect. His dad, Marquin Chandler, a Newark Memorial graduate, played at George Washington and San Jose State before playing professionally overseas for nearly a decade.

"(Amare) can do it all," Tripp said. "He can play

Lions Club to Hold Crab Feed Fundraiser

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Lions Club will hold its annual Crab Feed fundraiser at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17.

The dinner will include all-you-can-eat crab and clam chowder, along with pasta, salad and dessert from Melo's Pizza & Pasta. There will also be a no-host bar serving beer and a selection of Livermore wines.

Element 116, a Tri-Valley jazz band, will provide live dance music. There will also be raffles, silent auction and a 50/50 drawing.

Tickets are $75 per person, or $420 for a table of 6, and are available by calling 805-405-8742 for tickets.

Last year, the Livermore Lions Club provided financial aid to flood, fire and hurricane victims, as well as several local charities.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618944

The following person(s) doing business as: Yeezee Collects, 1626 Vancouver Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Yee, 1626 Vancouver Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/24/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Yee, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2025. Expires November 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6637. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619363

The following person(s) doing business as: Frugal Finds by Arukah, 1072 Batavia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arukah, 1072 Batavia Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Jonas, Executive Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6638. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619383

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Tri-Valley Auto Interiors; 2. Tri-Valley Auto Upholstery, 3723 Old Santa Rita Rd #9-10 Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike S. Pauselius, 7940 Applewood CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/03/1993. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mlke S. Pauselius, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6639. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619283

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Vanguard Marketing Group; 2. Vanguard Products, 7888 Marathon Dr, STE B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanguar Sales, Inc. 7888 Marathon Dr, STE B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/24/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Fleener, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2025. Expires December 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6640. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619384

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. D.L. Marketing; 2. Tesla Real Estate Group; 3. All Pro Mortgage, 167 S P ST, STE C, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage, Inc., 167 S P ST, STE C Livermore. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 08/22/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Debra Rose, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6641. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619331

The following person(s) doing business as: Sandra Zavala-Garcia, LCSW Therapy, 4435 First ST #261, Livermore, CA 94551-2215 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sandra Y. Zavala-Garcia, 4435 First ST #261, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sandra Y. Zavala-Garcia, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6642. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619440

The following person(s) doing business as: The Little Things Photography, 1508 Prescott ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mario Valdes, 1508 Prescott ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mario Valdes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2025. Expires December 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6643. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619343

The following person(s) doing business as: JC Tax Services, 3053 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JC Tax Services Inc., 3053 Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juan Carlos Bermudez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6644. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 601899

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). JC Tax Services, 3053 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Juan Carlos Bermudez, 24510 Surrey Way, Hayward, CA 94544. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 11/06/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Juan Carlos Bermudez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6645. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619391

The following person(s) doing business as: FK Estate Realty, 6601 Owens Drive, STE 250, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Qiao Kuang, 3736 Fallon Rd, STE 237, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Qiao Kuang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6646. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619446

The following person(s) doing business as: Fat Pigeon Pottery, 2480 Magnolia Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lily MacIver, 2480 Magnolia Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lily MacIver, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2025. Expires December 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6647. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619348

The following person(s) doing business as: Mila Coffee Roasting, 950 Flurry Dr., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lusine Petrosyan, 950 Flurry Dr., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lusine Petrosyan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6648. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619366

The following person(s) doing business as: At Romance Pleasanton, LLC, 3724 Stanley Blvd, Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): At Romance Pleasanton, LLC, 3724 Stanley Blvd, Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yan Zhou Huand, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6649. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619341

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. EMC2E Universe Publishing; 2. Relan Real Estate, 3051, Quantum DR., #4503, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rakesh Kumar Relan, 30510 QUantum Dr, #4503, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rakesh Kumar Relan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6650. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619371

The following person(s) doing business as: Gym Doctors, 3488 ARden Road, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GymDoc, Inc., 3488 Arden Road, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Koorosh Daniel Daneshvar, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6651. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618994

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. FLIP2Media; 2. FLIP2Agency, 1067 Serpentine LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Flip 2 Media, Inc., 1067 Serpentine LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Doug Mann, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2025. Expires November 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6652. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619385

The following person(s) doing business as: Wylie Rental Properties, 2379 Palm Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gail M. Wylie, 2379 Palm Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gail M. Wylie, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6653. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619422

The following person(s) doing business as: The Independent, 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1963. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joan Seppala, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 11, 2025. Expires December 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6654. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 615384

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Center for Lifespan Wellness, 3020 Bernal Ave, Suite 110 PMB117, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Lombardi, 3020 Bernal Ave, Suite 110 PMB117, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 6/13/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Sarah Lombardi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6655. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619650

The following person(s) doing business as: Universal Landscape, LLC, 1881 COllier Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Universal Landscape, LLC, 1881 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Francisco Duarte Marron, Office. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 24, 2025. Expires December 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6656. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619658

The following person(s) doing business as: Revs Beauty Studio, 2222 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Revu's LLC, 380 Misty Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Revathi Battu, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2025. Expires December 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6657. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619555

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hala Shawarma; 2. Hala Mediterranean, 1504 Webster ST, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Global Tastes, Inc., 1504 Webster ST., Alameda, CA, 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aimen Sharay, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 17, 2025. Expires December 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6658. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619502

The following person(s) doing business as: Weld-It Unlimited Fabrication, 23 E Airway Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shane Orvis, 226 Joyce ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shane Orvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 16, 2025. Expires December 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6659. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619586

The following person(s) doing business as: Advantage Guild, 2247 Sixth ST, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 4025 New York Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anne Szostek, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 19, 2025. Expires December 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6660. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619577

The following person(s) doing business as: Opus Luxury Group, 2749 Fressia CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mahpierai Inc., 2749 Fressia CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hamed Nawabi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 18, 2025. Expires December 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6661. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619603

The following person(s) doing business as: Solecito, 18963 Rainier Ave, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Johan Ocegueda, 18963 Rainier Ave., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/23/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Johan Ocegueda, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2025. Expires December 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6662. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619764

The following person(s) doing business as: Fremont Auto Body & Repair, 37374 Maple Street, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Saeed K. Rahman, 37374 Maple ST. Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/29/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Saeed K. Rhaman, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 31, 2025. Expires December 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6663. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619660

The following person(s) doing business as: Fairfield by Marriott Livermore, 220 N. Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diamond Lodging Inc., 7755 N Gilroy Ave, Fresno, CA 93722. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 09/26/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karamjit S. Nijjar, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 24, 2025. Expires December 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6664. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619694

The following person(s) doing business as: Canary in the Coal Mine, 1322A Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Danuekke Eichner, 1322A Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706. This business is conducted by an Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Danielle Eichner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2025. Expires December 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6665. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619626

The following person(s) doing business as: Palette and Purl, 654 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): denise Harvey, 654 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Denise Harvey, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2025. Expires December 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6666. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619336

The following person(s) doing business as: Servin TCG, 2111 103rd Ave, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jesus Servin, 2111 103rd Ave, Okland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/9/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jesus Servin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6667. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619775

The following person(s) doing business as: Valley Brokers on Main, 855 Main ST, #204, Livemore, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Morris, 855 Main ST, #204, Livermore CA 94566 This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 03/08/2012. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Morris, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 31, 2025. Expires December 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6668. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 609317

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Law Office of Hellas Leung, 15808 Hesperian Blvd, #127, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. Registered by the following owner(s): Hellas Leung, 15808 Hesperian Blvd, #127, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 9/16/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Hellas Leung, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6669. Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

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Teenagers Host Talk With A Former NASA Astronaut

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — Rainy conditions did not deter approximately 150 participants from filling a meeting room at the Pleasanton Library on Sunday, Jan. 4 to take part in a virtual conversation with former NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Dr. Cady Coleman.

With Coleman conferenced in from her home in Massachusetts, another 70 or so people joined via an online stream.

The discussion, "Lessons from Space with a NASA Astronaut," was moderated by Pareena Gupta, an Amador Valley High School junior and founder of The Sustainability Lens, a Pleasanton-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to making climate science clear and accessible to drive climate action.

"I noticed a barrier to climate action: scientific research and media coverage of climate issues are difficult for the public to interpret," Gupta said. "People cannot act on what they don't understand, so I decided to change how we talk about climate change."

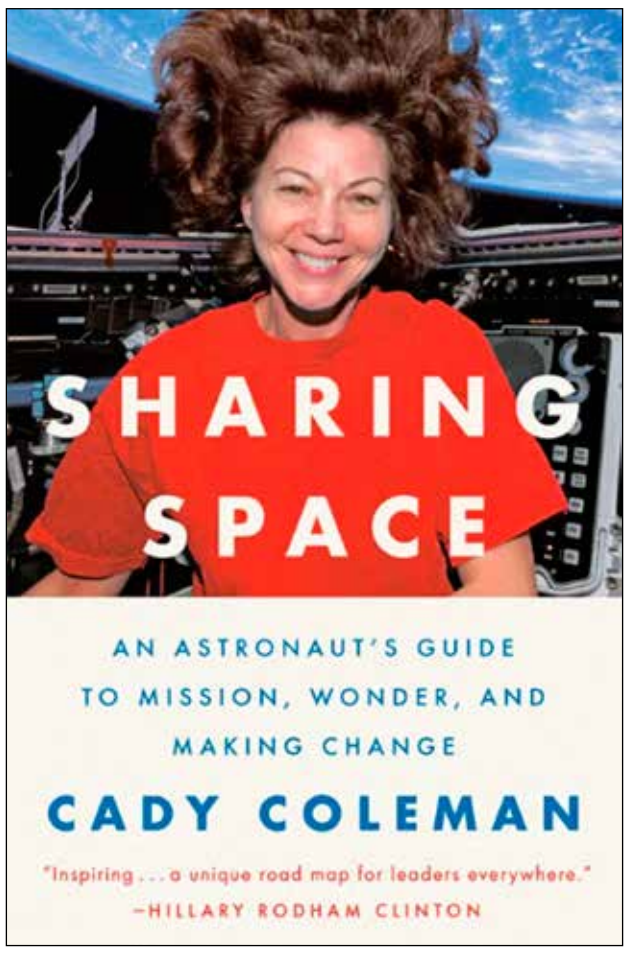
The young visionary has been making challenging climate-related topics accessible through her organization's YouTube podcast, Simply Sustainability, which features experts from research and academic institutions highlighting examples of climate progress and real-world climate solutions.

Gupta came across Coleman's book, "Sharing Space," at the Pleasanton Library.

"I was intrigued by her insights from space about sustainability on Earth, inclusion in space exploration and the importance of leadership, teamwork and mission-driven work," Gupta said. "That's how I got the idea of exploring how her learnings from space apply to various aspects of life on Earth.

"I reached out to Dr. Coleman for an interview on my podcast, and she generously agreed. Since it's not every day that we engage with a NASA astronaut, I expanded the opportunity to my Tri-Valley community."

Coleman began by sharing insights from her memoir. Classmates Aditya Nalabotu and Ishanvi Khare joined Gupta for a question-and-answer interview following Coleman's brief presentation that included beautiful images shot in space with the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, launched in 1999.



Former astronaut Cady Coleman inspired a room full of participants at the Pleasanton Library on Jan. 4 with insights from her new memoir, "Sharing Space". (Photo courtesy of The Sustainability Lens)



Dr. Cady Coleman, left, was led in a virtual interview by a student team, left to right, of Pareena Gupta, founder of the nonprofit, The Sustainability Lens, and Amador High School classmates Aditya Nalabotu and Ishanvi Khare. (Photo courtesy of The Sustainability Lens)

"I remember getting ready for landing and just thinking, 'Why are we coming home? There's so much work to do here,'" Coleman said following her first mission on the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1995. "It was just the most amazing mission, 16 days, the longest mission in the history of the space shuttle."

Coleman spent more than 180 days in space across two shuttle missions and a six-month expedition aboard the International Space Station (ISS), where she served as Lead Robotics and Lead Science Officer.

Coleman imparted both technical and philosophical wisdom during a one-hour discussion.

In the leadup to her third space mission, to stay aboard the ISS in 2010, she faced a technical curveball. NASA announced a cost-saving measure that entailed the removal of small and extra-large space suits. Coleman is 5-foot-4.

"It was devastating when they made that decision," she said. "The spacesuit is actually your personal spaceship, in the shape of a person. Because it's got your cooling, your air and everything you need to live and communicate." So, moving up a suit size, she explained, meant that many of the women couldn't go to the space station, but also after years of training, couldn't go to space at all.

"When I make it about the mission and not about how I feel, that anger helps me kind of make that transition," she said. "And I was very proud to qualify in that suit. And that's why I got to go to the ISS, because I worked on doing that."

Coleman shared photos of the views of Earth from the window she looked through from space. Gupta asked her how that view has shaped her perspective on the need to protect our home planet and the role we all play.

"A view can tell you many things if you just look," Coleman said. "And that's why this perspective depends on every one of us. It's not just about the window and the view. It's our perspective on that.

"Every one of us has our own point of view, and it is a valuable one. And you don't have to have been selected for some amazing job like being an astronaut. Your perspective is valuable in itself to solving problems because it is unique and you are unique."

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Hip-Hop Star Flo Rida to Perform at Alameda County Fair This Summer

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Flo Rida is set to bring his chart-topping hits to the Alameda County Fairgrounds this summer, performing Wednesday, July 8, as part of the fair's 2026 concert series.

The Grammy-nominated rapper broke into the mainstream in the late 2000s with high-energy hits including "Low," which features fellow rapper T-Pain.

The 46-year-old artist followed that success with popular tracks such as "Right Round," "Good Feeling," and "My House," helping cement his crossover appeal on radio and at live events.

Originally from Carol City, Florida, Flo Rida released his debut album, "Mail on Sunday," in 2008. It debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200.

He later released "My House" in 2015 and continues to tour, performing at festivals, fairs and large outdoor venues.

The Alameda County Fair will run from June 19 through July 12, offering live music, entertainment and family-friendly attractions at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

While bleacher seating at concerts is free with fair admission, tickets for reserved concert seating are sold separately. Prices vary by artist, seating location and availability, according to the Alameda County Fair website.

Regular gate admission, available from June 19 through July 12, is $19.80 for general admission for ages 13 to 61, $16.50 for seniors ages 62 and older, and $16.50 for children ages 6 to 11. Children ages 5 and younger are admitted free.

The fair will operate from noon to 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, with special hours of 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. No concert is scheduled for July 4.

Fair officials cautioned guests to avoid third-party resale sites and advised purchasing tickets only through the official Alameda County Fair ticketing platform, Saffire, as tickets purchased elsewhere are not guaranteed.

Additional performers are expected to be announced later this month.

Artists confirmed so far for the summer concert series include the Beach Boys on Wednesday, July 1 and Twist on Taylor, a Taylor Swift tribute act, scheduled for Saturday, June 20.

For more information on tickets, concert schedules, and fair hours, visit alamedacountyfair.com.



Grammy-nominated rapper Flo Rida is set to take the stage July 8 at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Alameda County Fair)

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